(c) whether the Jute Special Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores has also been created; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the schemes under the Fund and their implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme of Rs. 150 crores became operative with effect from 1st November 1986 for a period of two years to be reviewed thereafter. Industrial Finance Corporation of India has been made the Nodal Agency to administer this Fund. Under the Jute Modernisation Fund assistance is available to all existing jute mills including weak but potentially viable jute mills Individual jute mills have to approach IFCI or IDBI for grant of loan for modernisation/rehabilitation of the mill under the Scheme. The loan is available at a reduced rate of interest which is 11.5 per cent upto Rs. 6.0 crores. A Special loan in respect of promoters 'contribution is also provided upto 80 per cent of the stipulated promoters' contribution at simple interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum with a moratorium of 6 years. A Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary(Textiles) has been set up to coordinate, monitor and oversee the implementation of the Scheme.

IFCI and IDBI together have received 17 applications so far and one application has been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Under the Plan Head of the Ministry of Textiles, Jute Special Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores has also been created. The distribution of outlays among various programmes under the Special Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores has been worked out as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

1	Jute Agricultural Development Programme	25·00
2	Assistance to Jute Corporation of India and its Cooperative procurement Agencies	10·00
3	Product diversification and R&D Support.	10·00
4	Schemes for the benefit of workers in the jute industry . . .	53·50
	TOTAL :	98·50

Study on rubber industry in India

189. SHRI M. S GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any study of the conditions prevailing in the rubber industry in India and particularly in Kerala;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to provide assistance to rubber growers; and

(c) what additional area was brought under rubber cultivation under the subsidised scheme during 1985 and 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Rubber Board has conducted some studies on conditions of rubber plantation industry. Assistance in the form of Cash-subsidy, scientific and technical support, supply of high yielding planting materials etc. is available to rubber growers. An area of 24,000 hectares @12,000 hectares annually) has been replanted/newplanted during 1981 and 1986 under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.